

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 7, 13, and 14 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 10, 11, and 12 to read as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A printing apparatus provided with a plurality of interface means connectible to external devices adapted to store image data and operated by power supplied from the printing apparatus, with at least one of the plurality of interface means including a memory card interface and at least one of the external devices including a memory card, the printing apparatus comprising:

detection means for detecting a connection state of the external devices to the plurality of interface means;

determining means for determining whether or not a total amount of power that the external devices demand exceeds an amount of power that the printing apparatus is capable of supplying when the detection means detects that ~~two or more of the external devices are~~ the memory card is in the connection state; and

selection means for selecting one of the external devices to be supplied with power according to an operating state of a previously-connected external device among the external devices when the determining means determines that the total amount of power required exceeds the amount of power that the printing apparatus is capable of supplying,

wherein after the previously-connected external device enters an idle state, the selection means sets a flag, stops power supply to the previously-connected external device and starts power supply to a ~~newly-connected external device among the external devices~~ the memory card; and

wherein after having accessed the memory card through the memory card interface, the selection means re-starts power supply to the previously-connected external device based on a value set in the flag.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the selection means, after starting power supply to the ~~newly-connected external device~~ memory card, re-starts power supply to the previously-connected external device when the ~~newly-connected external device~~ memory card enters a disconnected state.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the selection means comprises user selection means for allowing a user to select a usable external device.

6. (Previously Presented) The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plurality of interface means comprises a plurality of interfaces of different specifications.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein at least one of the interface means comprises a USB interface.

9. (Previously Presented) The printing apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein at least one of the interface means comprises an IEEE 1394 interface.

10. (Currently Amended) A printing apparatus provided with a plurality of interface means adapted to supply power to external devices, with at least one of the plurality of interface means including a memory card interface and at least one of the external devices including a memory card, the printing apparatus comprising:

detection means for detecting a connection state of the external devices to the plurality of interface means;

determining means for determining whether or not a total amount of power that the external devices demand exceeds an amount of power that the printing apparatus is

capable of supplying when the detection means detects that ~~two or more of the external devices are~~ the memory card is in the connection state; and

selection means for selecting one of the external devices to be supplied with power according to an operating state of a previously-connected external device among the external devices when the determining means determines that the total amount of power required exceeds the amount of power that the printing apparatus is capable of supplying,

wherein after the previously-connected external device enters an idle state, the selection means sets a flag, stops power supply to the previously-connected external device and starts power supply to ~~a newly-connected external device among the external devices~~ the memory card; and

wherein after having accessed the memory card through the memory card interface, the selection means re-starts power supply to the previously-connected external device based on a value set in the flag.

11. (Currently Amended) A power supply control method in a printing apparatus provided with a plurality of interface means connectible to external devices adapted to store image data and operated by power supplied from the printing apparatus, with at least one of the plurality of interface means including a memory card interface and at least one of the external devices including a memory card, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting a connection state of the external devices to the plurality of interface means;

determining whether or not a total amount of power that the external devices demand exceeds an amount of power that the printing apparatus is capable of supplying when the detection means detects that ~~two or more of the external devices are~~ the memory card is in the connection state; and

selecting one of the external devices to be supplied with power according to an operating state of a previously-connected external device among the external devices when the determining step determines that the total amount of power required exceeds the amount of power that the printing apparatus is capable of supplying,

wherein after the previously-connected external device enters an idle state, the selecting step sets a flag, stops power supply to the previously-connected external device and starts power supply to a ~~newly-connected external device among the external devices~~ the memory card; and

wherein after having accessed the memory card through the memory card interface, restarting power supply to the previously-connected external device based on a value set in the flag.

12. (Currently Amended) A printing apparatus provided with a plurality of interface means connectible to external devices adapted to store image data and operated by power

supplied from the printing apparatus, wherein at least one of the plurality of interface means includes a memory card interface and at least one of the external devices include a memory card, the printing apparatus comprising:

detection means for detecting a connection state of the external devices to the plurality of interface means;

determining means for determining whether or not a total amount of power that the external devices demand exceeds an amount of power that the printing apparatus is capable of supplying when the detection means detects that ~~two or more of the external devices are~~ the memory card is in the connection state; and

selection means for selecting one of the external devices to be supplied with power according to an operating state of a previously-connected external device among the external devices when the determining means determines that the total amount of power required exceeds the amount of power that the printing apparatus is capable of supplying,

wherein after the power supply to the previously-connected external device is stopped, the selection means sets a flag and starts power supply to ~~a newly-connected external device among the external devices~~ the memory card, and

wherein after having accessed the memory card through the memory card interface, the selection means re-starts power supply to the previously-connected external device based on a value set in the flag.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)